Feminism in Silence: The Depths of Solitude and Self-Discovery" in the poetic creation of Parveen Shakir and Kamla Das

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Abstract: This paper cast lurid light on poetic works of Parveen Shakir and Kamala Das, two eminent and prolific poets of twenty one century they belong to the different part of the world Pakistan and India, Both poets, through their unique prospective of feminism, cultural dynamics, and personal experiences, shows deep insights into the themes such as search of identity ,suffering from male dominated society , isolation, and womanhood. Parveen Shakir is known for her modern approach to Urdu poetry that combines classical form of poetry (ghaza) traditions with personal reflections on faith, believe ,trust , love and loss and the struggles of being a woman in the male dominated society.while the former poet Kamala Das has composed in both English and Malayalam. She focuses on challenges social norms upon women with her candid exploration of female sexuality, independence, and emotional estrangement. This paper discusses the themes of isolation and feminism that found in her poetry at the time of interpretation their poems it is vital to mention about their distinct poetic styles that makes their poetic work more effective . It further highlights how both poets used their literary voice to push against social expectations, creating spaces for women's emotions, desires, and struggles. Through comparative analysis, this research sheds lurid light on how parveen Shakir and Kamla Das has made mention the similar themes within different cultural contexts and contributed significantly to South Asian feminist literature.

Key Words:- Parveen Shakir ,Kamala Das, Pakistan and India, feminism, search of identity, isolation, social expectations, South Asian feminist literature.

INTRODUCTION

Parveen Shakir and Kamala Das are two great literary figures of South Asia (Pakistan and India) whose poetry exhibit the desires, emotions and struggles of women. Despite coming from different cultural and linguistic background Parveen Shakir is from Pakistan while Kamla Das belongs to India.Both poets shared common ground in their exploration of feminism, isolation, and identity.Parveen Shakir, an Urdu poet, wrote with a deeply personal voice that blended the classical ghazal form with modern sensibilities, reflecting on love, gender inequality, and the inner feelings of being a woman. Her poetry often highlighted the constraints of patriarchy and the emotional conflicts that arise from societal expectations. on the same page, there was one of the most outspoken voices in Indian English literature was Kamla Das. She is Known for her bold way of female sexuality and independence,Kamla Das confronted patriarchal conventions with regret and repent . Her poetic composition often talks the themes of love, desire, and alienation, many more things that confined women into four walls. She was revolutionary in India's conservative society. Her poetry is a medium and remedy of self-expression and resistance against the cultural silence surrounding women's emotions and experiences. This paper consequently discusses the beauty of Parveen Shakir's and Das's poetic art , focusing on how both poets used their art to challenge the norms which makes women helpless and also give voice to the struggles of women, particularly in the context of isolation and feminism.

Theme of Isolation and Feminism in Their Poems

These two famous poets of South Asia Parveen Shakir and Kamala Das sheds the theme of isolation by a feminist prospective in their poetry. Parveen Shakir often reflects on the emotional solitude that women experience, particularly in relationships constrained by societal expectations. Her poems reveal the inner conflict women face when forced to conform to traditional roles of wifehood and motherhood, often at the expense of their personal desires. In poems like Khushbu (Fragrance), Shakir explores the isolation of a woman who, despite being

surrounded by others, feels disconnected due to the weight of societal pressure. Her poetry goes against the patriarchal structures that confine women, leaving them isolated not only emotionally but also socially. Here it is an instance of the fact ……

Her poem in Khushbu (Fragrance),

"Tonight will pass somehow"

Tonight will pass somehow!

The night is deep,

but the moon is shining.

Now your love is burning on

my forehead. Now I smell

your touch in my breath.

The magic of your voice is for me now,

the fragrance of your clothes

is now for me, your arms are your

face, now, above all, my love is for me!

So now I have a lot to live

for, tonight will pass somehow!

Fragrance (Translated from Urdu)

Similarly, Kamala Das presents isolation in her poetry that is unavoidable from male dominated society . Her famous poem 'An Introduction' highlights the isolation felt by a woman who dares to challenge the societal norms imposed on her. Kamla Das's poetry is also as deep as Parveen Shakir she made mention the deep personal experiences , expressing the loneliness that comes from being misunderstood or ostracized for asserting her individuality. Her depiction of isolation often exhibits the themes of female sexuality, as seen in 'The Old Playhouse', where the woman feels trapped and objectified in her marital home, isolated from her own identity.

Feminism is a core theme in Parveen and Das's poetic works, it would not wrong to say that feminisim is an part and parcle of their life ,personal experiences and above all in the their poetic creation . and it is directly associated with their theme of isolation and subjugation . Parveen Shakir's feminism is little normal yet powerful, often articulated by her portrayal of women's emotional struggles. Her poems reveal the silent resistance of women, on the other hand, Kamla Das is more direct and confrontational in her feminist stand. She refuses to conform, instead using her poetry to assert the importance of female autonomy, sexual freedom, and emotional expression. Parveen Shakir and Kamala Das has used a very nice medium to express themselves as well as all women in general ,their pain and pleasure ,suffering problems faced by the society to tollarate just because of a second gender and inferior to the male.Through the medium of poetry they became voice of voiceless.

Distinctive Poetic Style:-

Parveen Shakir's poetic style is a blend of classical and modern Urdu poetry. She often used the ghazal form but infused it with contemporary themes, especially those concerning women's issues. Her language is simple ,lucid ,delicate, some times symbolic and figurative as it is seen in one of the poems ….Ek Ladki Ke Naam although it hasn't mention anywhere that for whom it means to say …but she instigated by girl named Gitanjali an 16 years old girl. Deeply. Shakir's metaphors often draw on nature and traditional symbols to express personal and feminist ideas. She was able to combine the traditional elements of Urdu poetry with a modernist sensibility, creating a unique voice that resonated with many.

Kamala Das's style is more straightforward and confessional. she is also known as confessional poet. She Wrote in free verse, her poems are often autobiographical, breaking away from traditional forms and conventions. Kamla Das's use of language is bold, unadorned, and direct, reflecting her desire to confront societal taboos. Her style is conversational, making her work accessible, yet powerful in its emotional depth. Kamla Das's refuses societal expectations of women by the mirrors of her poems

CONCLUSION

Parveen Shakir and Kamala Das, although wrote in different languages and cultural contexts, but shares a profound understanding of the emotional and societal isolation faced by women. through their poetry.They gave voice to the unspoken struggles of women, challenging patriarchal structures and creating space for feminist discourse. While Parveen Shakir's poetry has some soft tone to classical forms,

Kamla Das's is more direct and challenging , yet both made significant contributions to feminist literature. Their theme of solitude and feminism will always be cherished by the feminists and for all those who contridutes the relevant theme to their poetry .

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